



The Blurb

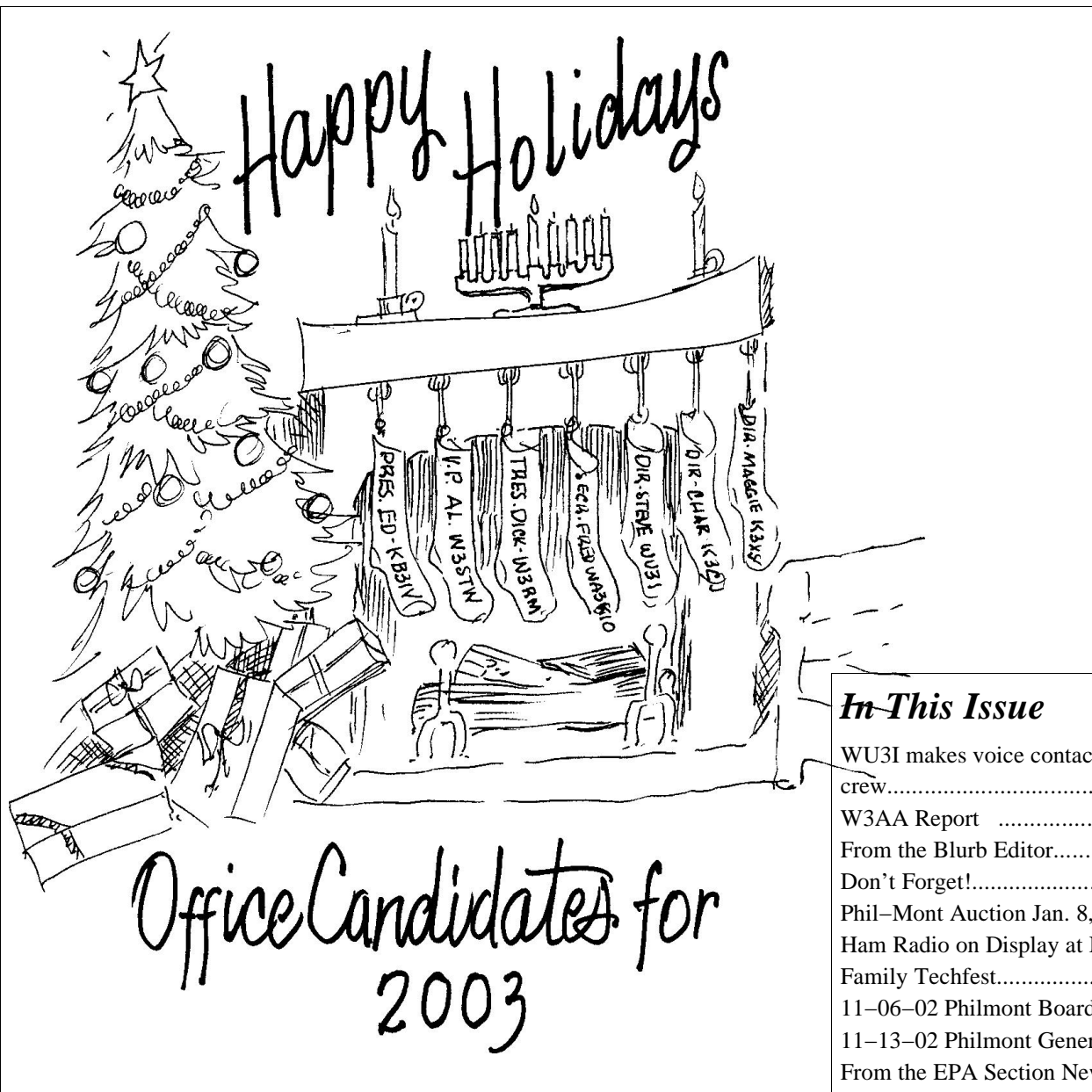


Newsletter of The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club
Public Service Since 1949

Volume 52 Number 12

<http://www.phil-mont.org>

December 2002



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The Blurb is published monthly by, and for, the members of **The PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB, INC.** whose purpose is to promote Amateur Radio in general, and Mobile Radio in particular. *Copying and quoting* is permitted with a credit line. We gladly exchange publications with other amateur radio clubs. Requests should be sent to the Editor. *Subscriptions* are available to non-members for \$10, addressed to the Treasurer.

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Labels and mailing: **WB3KOJ & WB3KOH**

Submissions deadline: all copy must be in the hands of the Editors by the 20th of the previous month.

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Address and club directory changes, and articles that are for the PMRC membership e-mail list should be sent to: **wb3koj@comcat.com**

License Examinations

will be held on December 5th at the Franklin Institute, 20th and the Parkway in Philadelphia. See page 8 for further VE Exam information.

Club Stations

W3QV Club Repeater – Trustee: W3BBB

Ridge & Port Royal Avenues, Philadelphia, PA

147.03 MHz + PL 91.5 Hz

444.80 MHz + PL 186.2 Hz

W3EM – Field Day and special events station – Trustee W3VVS

Club 2m simplex frequency : 147.51 MHz

Sunday Morning Net Schedules

- **2 Meter Net** at 09:30et on W3QV repeater
- **10-on-10 Net** at 10:00et 28.393 MHz USB (±QRM)
- **75 meter Net** at 10:20et 3.993 MHz LSB

The club meets

at 7:30 PM on the second non-holiday Wednesday of every month except July and August at

The Masonic Home

801 Ridge Pike

Lafayette Hill, PA

19444-1799

All visitors are welcome!

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15 Poe Ave
Wyncote PA
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Directors: **WU3I (02), W3RM (02), W3BBB(03), N3MT (03), N3XKE (02), W3AOK(03), W3WF (A)**

Committees

Archives: NG3P
Audit: NS3K
Awards: W3WF

Blurb folding:
WB3KOJ & WB3KOH
Directory: WB3KOJ
DX: N3MT
Emerg. Coord.: N3XKE
Field Day: WU3I

Internet: WU3I
Membership: W3LEN
Net Control: KB3IV
Publicity: W3RM
Program: Club VP

Public Service:
W3CH & W3WF
Refreshments: W3AOK
Repeater: W3BBB
Skywarn: WX3PHI
Sunshine: WU3I

Youth: N3MT
TVI: W3VVS
VE Program: ND3Q
W3AA Trustee: WU3I
Welcome: K3CJ.

WU3I makes voice contact with ISS crew

Our own Steve WU3I has made his first space operations contact in grand style

Having set up in anticipation of digipeating packet radio though the ARISS amateur radio station on board the International Space Station, he ended up with a somewhat more significant QSO. Let's let him tell it in his own words:

Flash 11/17/2002 04:04:00 Z hours
Back in April, or was it March, Well it was the Timonium Hamfest I purchased a set of KLM Satellite Antennas for 144 and 432 Mhz.

After a stellar performance at Field Day (where they made a contact on the first pass of the first Satellite on schedule) they came home to my garage, until a few weeks ago.

I recently got tired of putting off my own antenna work in favor of shortening my list of "jobs" for others and installed my "new" antennas. After a

trip to Trevoise (pronounced correctly, of course!) I had all the info I needed to track all the goodies in space.



A few days later there was a pass of the ARISS (Amateur Radio International Space Station) and it was only operating on Packet. Well I had not used the TNC in so long I had to perform a hard reset and by

then, well, no more ARISS.

On the night of this writing, there was a pass starting around 10:55 PM local time (03:55 Z) and I set the antennas to due south and elevation to 37 degrees. The TNC was all set up ready to send CQ VIA NOCALL just like the websites all said to do for digital... when there was a voice.

I quickly changed the transmit frequency from 145.99 to 144.49.

There was Peggy Whitson in QSO with a W1 station. I was only getting a poor copy of her at best as the Space Station was not at my set elevation just yet but just as she signed off with the W1 there she was S9 and then some. I quickly called once, twice and a third time and then came the sweetest sound you want to hear??

"WU3I this is NA1ISS!"

We had a quick exchange and she was gone.

Well Al, you hooked another one into that group.

— de WU3I



Astronaut Peggy Whitson on board the International Space Station

W3AA Report

Flash 11/13/2002 At the Monthly meeting

It's Official, W3AA will be moving to Northeast High School. As of Saturday 11/16/02 with the help of Charlye K3CJ, the consoles containing position 1 & 2 and position 6 & 7 have been removed and are ready for transport.

N3XKE will be assisting in moving them to the school. The center three positions of our former station were built into the room around the metal consoles and were not able to be removed and reused. It will take a lot of work and will only be able to be done on the weekdays and Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

I will make a schedule public as soon as we have one together so you may come up to help when you can. As always the weekly nets will be the best place to keep up to date with what is happening.

— de WU3I

From the Blurb Editor

Well, it's hard to believe, but I find myself now putting to bed my twelfth edition of the PMRC Blurb.

This last year has been one that has brought a lot of change to Phil-Mont, and sometimes I've had to scramble a bit to keep up with it all.

It seemed like we were just finished celebrating five decades of W3AA operation at the Franklin Institute when we learned that W3AA was going to need to find a new home..and it's taken until the end of the year to be sure of where the station was going to end up, or even if there was going to be a W3AA.

There's something symbolic at work here, though. W3AA/W3TKQ has always been a showcase of where Amateur Radio is going, as well as preserving where it has been, and we can hope that its new home at Northeast High School will be a part of that.

Amateur Radio can't survive only as a museum of the past; it needs to continue to be a laboratory of the future as well.

Dennis Silage's excellent presentation on Digital Audio in Ham Radio at last month's is a reminder of that. So are the space operations activities of W3STW and now WU3I (welcome aboard!).

Finding synergies between radio and modern wired digital circuits, like Internet repeater linking and the global APRS Internet/satellite backbone network are also a part. So is experimentation with software-defined and spread-spectrum radio, and other new technologies.

Embracing change is essential to long term survival in the world of our future. I look forward to sharing that future with you and the other members of Phil-Mont.

73 de Maggie K3XS

Don't Forget!

Phil-Mont Auction Jan. 8, 2003

The 2003 Phil-Mont Auctionfest will be with us soon; January 8th 2003 at the Masonic Home.

Every year at that time we are amazed by the wide variety of equipment and other paraphernalia offered for sale, as well as being entertained by our skilled auctioneer Russ W3CH and his able assistants. This is also an excellent opportunity to profitably dispose of equipment and parts that have become surplus to your needs, while supporting PMRC.

For more information, contact PMRC at P.O. Box 88 – Abington PA 19001 or call Russ, W3CH, 610-631-3447 ext.3, e-mail w3ch@arrl.net

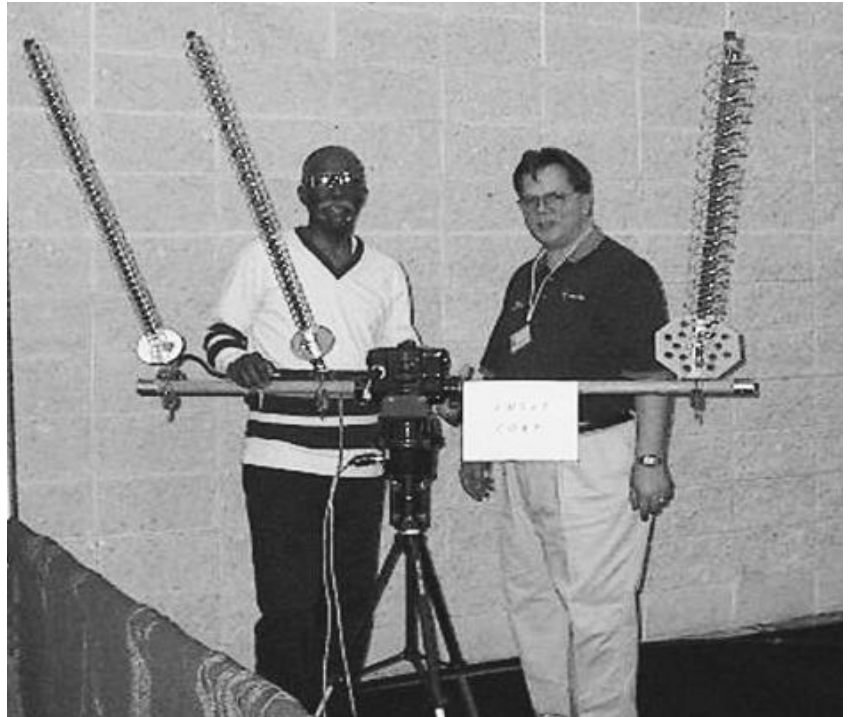


Ham Radio on Display at NBC10 Family Techfest

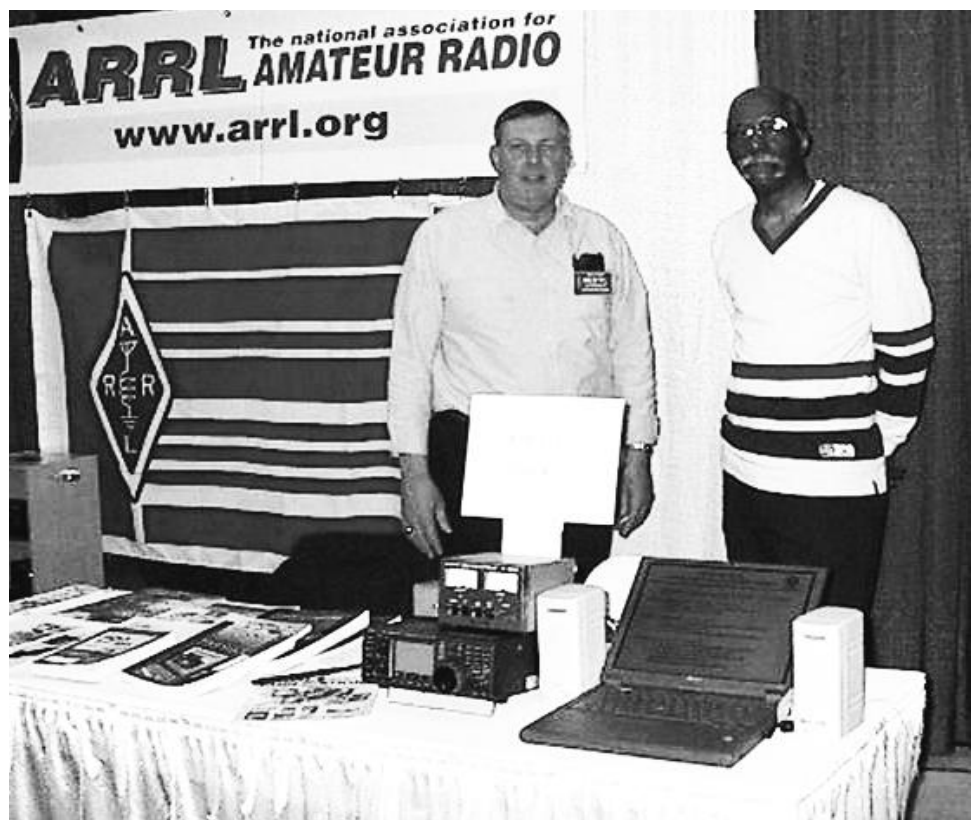
Amateur Radio was once again on display again at this year's NBC10's Family Techfest at the Pennsylvania Convention Center in Philadelphia. The free event ran Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 23-24, from 10 AM til 5 PM.

This year, the exhibit featured satellite communication and Skywarn activities. In addition EPA SM Eric Olena and ASM Bob Josuweit WA3PZO, as well as our own Al Tribble W3STM (representing AMSAT, the Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation) were on hand to help answer questions from the public.

The ARRL table has been one of the high draw exhibits at the Tech Fests with kids of all ages stopping by.



Al W3STW with EPA Asst. Section Manager Bob WA3PZO and a helical satellite antenna array display at Tech Fest 2002



EPA Section Manager Eric Olena WB3FPL with Al W3STW at the Tech Fest Table

11-06-02 Philmont Board Meeting

Attending the Board meeting were: Jim W3BBB, Dick W3RM, Ed KB3IV, Fred WA3KIO, Bill W3AOK, Al W3STW, Steve WU3I, and Gene N3XKE.

Ed KB3IV called the meeting to order.

Treasurer: Dick W3RM reported up to now there was little activity.

A discussion was held on allocating money to be used for the Jack Haring Memorial Fund. Members will be able to decide where they would like donations to go. Two thousand dollars will be needed by the end of the year for next year's scholarship.

Blurb: Everything is running fine. Bill W3AOK reported that almost all the printing is done by computer and is working out fine.

Emergency Coordinator: Gene N3XKE said nothing to report this month.

Field day: Steve WU3I reported that it would be here before we know it.

Dick W3RM's station will be set up to print out as stations are worked to avoid last year's problems. The generators will not have GFI's which caused the problems last year.

Web Site: Steve WU3I reported everything is changed over. Sign-up for the MS150 is now possible with the applications going directly to Russ W3CH.

Our phone number at the Institute is now set up for outgoing only with update information.

Membership: No new members this month.

Net Control: Ed KB3IV reported that the rotation is working fine for the 2-meter net. For now, the 75-meter net controls will do the 10-meter nets. Otherwise, Steve WU3I said he will take them for now when possible.

Publicity: Dick W3RM has sent out word on the January Auction Fest. QST has acknowledged.

Al W3STW: The speaker at the November meeting will be K3DS Dr. Dennis Silage who will speak on a new mode of communication. The December speaker will be the third area section manager. January will be the Auction Fest. February will be the MS150 thank you pizza party. March is open. April will be Steve WU3I doing a presentation on Echo-Link.

Public Service: The only event left for the year is Brian's Run on December 8th.

Elections: Dick W3RM agreed to run for treasurer with the board appointing Mike N3MT as assistant treasurer. The board is looking for people to run for director's positions.

Repeater: Jim W3BBB said everything is running fine.

W3AA: Steve WU3I reported that the antennas are down. Nothing belonging to Philmont is on the roof. The bulk of everything is out

of the station. QSTs belong to the Institute's library. There are some books missing that belong to the Institute. A list will be published in the Blurb. See Steve if you know where they are.

A meeting was held at Northeast High School between board members and the director of the SPARC program. A discussion was held on moving W3AA to Northeast High School. A motion was made for the board to approve the concept of the moving W3AA to Northeast High School subject to working out acceptable arrangements. Further details will follow as they come. Jim W3BBB abstained with everyone else voting in favor.

Perry W3PTB passed along info to the board that the Shriner's Amateur Radio Station, formally in northeast Philadelphia has been moved to Lafayette Hill, PA. Knowing that Philmont had been looking for a new location for W3AA, permission was offered for antennas and a possible tower. Presently, they operate each Thursday in contact with other Shriners Hospitals. The input will be considered.

At this time Al W3STW made a motion to adjourn. Ed seconded and the meeting was adjourned.

73 de WA3KIO

11-13-02 Philmont General Meeting

Twenty-three people signed the meeting log. Ed KB3IV called the meeting to order.

Treasurer Report: Dick W3RM – due to lack of activity over the summer, only a handful of checks were written mostly for refreshments. Dues bills will be going out in January. Dick reviewed the Claude H. Haring Memorial Scholarship Fund. Philmont expects to have the money in for next year's scholarship.

Membership: Len W3LEN had the package for new member Laura KB3LRA who was not present.

Dick W3RM Stated that if anyone has a change in call or lost their Philmont Badge, Gary N3WPE will make new ones. Contact Dick about price and to order.

Nets: Ed KB3IV reported that the nets are running great. The new net control format sheets have been published. Two meter has the usual rotation. Seventy-Five meters is running well although with the end of daylight saving time ending, the band is noisy. The ten-meter net no longer has W3AA to run it so Ed asked the seventy-five meter net controls to take ten meters if they have capabilities. Ed is open to suggestions on ten meters and Steve WU3I offered to take the net when necessary.

Public Service: The next event is Brian's run on December 8th. Information can be had on the Philmont website.

Repeater: Jim W3BBB reported that the repeater is working well. UHF is working well.

VE Program: Four applicants passed – all upgrades. A VE session will be held in December at the Institute. After that, the information will be on the Philmont website. Steve WU3I is looking for books missing from the stations library that belong to the Franklin Institute's library. The tower on the Institute was lowered with the help of Steve WU3I, Al W3STW and Charlye K3CJ. The beam was taken down, the antennas packed and stored by Steve. At present, there is nothing belonging to Philmont on the roof.

Steve WU3I announced intentions to make Northeast High School the new home of W3AA and VE testing.

The website has a new page to sign up for the MS150 with the forms going directly to Russ W3CH. All public service events will be listed on the website as soon as information is received.

Sunshine: Nothing to report.

Field day: Steve will be contacting the park after the first of the year to reserve our space at Fort Washington State Park.

Directory: Let Don WB3KOJ know of any changes, corrections or updates to be made when the renewal slips go out.

Our ex-treasurer Mike K2BN and his wife Alice WA2BTB were visiting the

area and Mike gave a report of the new QTH in Arizona.

December's meeting will be elections. January's meeting will be the Auction Fest. February's meeting will be the MS Society's Thanks You Pizza Party. Future meetings will be a refresher course on Skywarn. Steve WU3I will do a presentation on Echolink in April.

November is the month for final nominations and with Bill W3AOK being away on business, Ed handled it. The slate for officers is: President, Ed KB3IV. Vice President, Al W3STW. Treasurer Dick W3RM, and Secretary, Fred WA3KIO. Directors running are: Steve WU3I, Charlye K3CJ, and Maggie K3XS. A motion was made by Ed to close the nominations. Dick seconded it.

The 50/50 was drawn with Dan K3HES winning.

At this time the meeting was adjourned and Al introduced our guest speaker, Dr. Dennis Silage K3DS who presented a talk and demonstration of new digital operations.

73 de WA3KIO

Oops!

In last month's issue, we printed in the Net Control Format: *...at 1020 hrs, the 75 meter Phone Net on 75 meters, 3.393 MHz LSB...*

This is incorrect. It should read: *...at 1020 hrs, the 75 meter Phone Net on 75 meters, 3.993 MHz LSB...*

Please correct your copy. Sorry about that.

From the EPA Section News

Hams in the News After Deadly Tor- nadoes

Hams stepped forward at a moments notice following deadly storms in Ohio, Tennessee, Alabama, and Pennsylvania. News reports tell of amateurs providing emergency communications when telephone lines were snapped by winds over 200 mph.

One Associated Press story on the Ohio tornado was picked up by broadcast and print news media throughout the United States and several countries including Canada, Great Britain, South Africa, and Saudi Arabia.

In Van Wert, Ohio a twin cinema, lost it's roof as the tornado made a direct hit. Inside was ham radio operator and EMT Rich Busch. According to the Van Wert Times Bulletin, Busch heard news of the storm on his HT and ran to help management get the movie goers to safety.

On November 13, David Bower, K4PZT, a contributor to the SouthEast Repeater Association – Repeater Journal, reports that Tennessee Section Emergency Coordinator Sheila Tallent KB4G, was to be interviewed on CNN

Montgomery County Holds Simulated Emer- gency Test

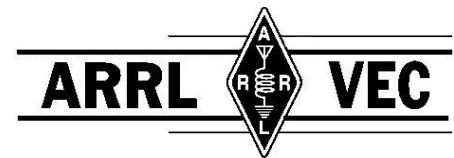
Montgomery County RACES/ARES conducted its Simulated Emergency Test from Thursday, October 24 through Saturday, October 26.

The SET kicked off with two and six meter nets on Thursday with simulated warnings of a severe storm expected to hit the area Friday night. A simulated Skywarn net was held on Friday midst periodic simulated bulletins about the storm from the National Weather Service.

Saturday morning hams were called out to provide a communications network linking County officials with local municipalities. About 20 members spread across the county. According to the scenario, the storm and accompanying tornados effectively cut the county in half and rendered most area repeaters inoperative, including the RACES two meter repeater. In addition the County Emergency Operating Center was evacuated.

RACES/ARES set up two alternate main "Alfa" EOC's (King of

Prussia and Blue Bell) and deployed three "Bravo" zone or jump EOC's to direct local ham activity (South, North and West). Volunteers checking in with the Alfa stations were directed to the closest Bravo station for a credentials and equipment check and assignment to various municipalities. Upon arrival at the municipality they made contact with local officials (where possible) and demonstrated that they could communicate back to their Bravo station using the simplex mode.



203rd Monthly Phil-Mont

VE Exam Session Statistics for November 7th 2002

Four candidates took five elements, and we had four upgrades and no new hams. The VE team was chaired by Dusty Rhoads **ND3Q**, and the other participating VEs were :

Bob Freer W3YLT
Jeff Kerber N3VE
Jim McCloskey NS3K

Upcoming Exam Sessions:

December 5, 2002 at the Franklin Institute.

Location and dates for 2003 to be announced
Applicants should call Dusty ND3Q at 215-879-0505 for the latest information.

All Alfa and Bravo stations had capability on several bands, including HF and, with a few exceptions, everything worked well. Jerry, KB3EAA was upstate, set up in a state park just like field day, with no connection to commercial power. On 75 meters he was able to relay messages between county stations who could not otherwise establish contact.

Gil, W3DJL set up his portable "repeater repeater" and it allowed stations out of simplex range to communicate with one another. Andy, N3OMA, found that his 75 meter antenna would not load. Undaunted, he shunt fed a steel fire house antenna tower and got on 75 meters with an excellent signal.

In general, simplex communications worked better than many expected and it would appear that RACES/ARES could function in an emergency without the main repeater and operating center.

This is not to say that there were no problems. There were, and critiques from the participants will be assembled into lessons learned that will be used in the future.

The SET was planned and executed by Chief Deputy Radio Officer Bob, NE3I and Training Officer Ned, WQ3Z. All in all it was fun, a learning experience and great practice. A complete series of photos can be found at: <http://lynx.tzo.com:8088/k3ith/02/1026b/album1.html>. (Thanks to Dick, K3ITH)



New Applicant:

Robert (Rob) Simone
K7MIB (tech)
320 Powder Horn Road
OCCUPATION: Broadcaster
Home: 610-828-6426
E-MAIL: robmib@yahoo.com
Committees: Emergency
Coordination

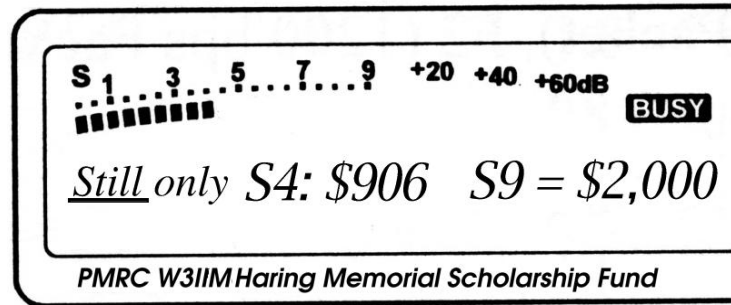
DIRECTORY CORRECTION
W3RED-2657 Overlook Drive
Norristown, PA 19403
Home Phone 610-584-4345

December Birthdays

- 02 Don Gordon – WB3KOJ
Patricia Katz (XYL
N3OWM)
- 06 Susie Lada – N3FTY
- 08 Jules Stein – KB3AFH
- 19 Larry Stevenson – K3HWE
- 20 Mike Tannenbaum – K2BN
- 21 Rick Spencer – N3FD
- 23 Roy Newman – KC2FIO
- 24 Marty Weinberg –
WP4MSX
- 25 Len Hughes – W3LEN
Jim McCloskey – NS3K
Rob Simone – K7MIB*
- 27 Mindy Pollack (XYL
N3VLC)
- Jim Spencer – W3BBB
- 28 Carl Brown – N3SKK
Betty King (XYL W3PXY)
Tony Simek – N3YNH
- 30 Frank Lewis – N3DGU
*Membership Pending

MEMBERSHIP STATS

At press time P.M.R.C. has:
120 FULL PAID MEMBERS
13 FAMILY
3 YOUTH MEMBERS
2 HONORARY MEMBERS
1 PENDING MEMBER



Is the Scholarship Fund Stalled?

Time is very short to reach our goal of \$2,000 by January 1 to fund a scholarship for a deserving young ham in the Eastern Pennsylvania and Southern New Jersey ARRL sections. Don't let this get lost in the holiday bustle. *Contact W3RM with your donation today!*

December 2002	
Date	Event
Sun 01	NCS: 2m WA3NSP – 75m W2AJV
Mon 02	
Tue 03	
Wed 04	Board of Directors Meeting–WDRV–FM
Thu 05	VE Testing– last test at Franklin Inst.
Fri 06	
Sat 07	
Sun 08	NCS: 2m N3OWM – 75m WA3KIO – Brian's Run
Mon 09	
Tue 10	
Wed 11	General Meeting – Masonic Home
Thu 12	
Fri 13	
Sat 14	
Sun 15	NCS: 2m KB3IV – 75m KB3IV
Mon 16	
Tue 17	
Wed 18	
Thu 19	
Fri 20	
Sat 21	
Sun 22	NCS: 2m N3FTY – 75m W3STW
Mon 23	
Tue 24	Christmas Eve
Wed 25	Christmas Day
Thu 26	
Fri 27	
Sat 28	
Sun 29	NCS: 2m W3BBB – 75m W3BBB
Mon 30	
Tue 31	New Year's Eve

First Class Mail

The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club, Inc
641 Kismet Road Philadelphia PA 19115

The Blue